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CONNAH'S QUAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1938

Connah's Quay,
Flints.
October, 1939.

W.N.P. Williams,
Medical Officer of Health.

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CONNAH'S QUAY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Connah's Quay Urban District Council:

Gentlemen,

My Report on the health of the District for 1938 is drawn up in the manner suggested in Circular 1728 (Wales) issued by the Ministry of Health. Except for any alterations, improvements, or developments, the Report is similar to that of last year.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area:	4,214 acres.	
Population:	6,442 (Registrar-General's Estimate - mid. 1938).	
Rateable Value:	£32,960. Sum represented by 1d. rate: £129.	
Number of Inhabited Houses:	No. of inhabited houses:	1,974.
	No. of families:	1,999.
	No. of families not provided for:	25.

Social Conditions:

The Urban District of Connah's Quay is on the west bank of the River Dee, and towards the east of the County of Flint. Climatic conditions are reasonably good throughout the year, and usually mild in character during all seasons, particularly in winter months, making the district a healthy one to live in.

Several large industrial works give employment to a good number of men, boys and girls. These works include the iron and steel works, the chemical works, local brickworks, and the silkworks in the adjacent borough of Flint, and township of Holywell. The recently commenced Government works at Broughton is also quite conveniently near enough to afford employment to a good number from the area. Agriculture in the immediate vicinity also affords a medium of employment not to be despised. Salmon fishing (and other types of fish), has been, from time immemorial, a means of livlihood to quite a good number of the community.

No new industry has been commenced in the area during the year.

There is no definite degree of unemployment in the area; indeed, unemployment seems to have been on the decrease during the past two years, and the definitely increased prosperity of the workers is reflected in the relatively increased happiness and appearance of the children.

The Physical Training Classes continue to add their quota to the general well-being of the populace, but I do not think sufficient interest is taken by the younger members of the community, especially the male element, in the "Keep Fit" organisations. The provision of outdoor play-grounds, which is being encouraged so much, and which I understand you are getting under way with, should help materially in producing the A.1 type so desirable to the nation.

Occupational diseases and associated troubles are at a minimum in the area.

The Accident Incidence appears to keep at much the same level each year. Road accidents (motor and other vehicles) were not numerous, but actual numbers of these are not available.

Vital Statistics.

Births.

		M.	F.	Total.
Live Births -	Total.	69.	69.	138.
	Legitimate.	68.	68.	136.
	Illegitimate.	1.	1.	2.
Still Births -	Total.	4.	1.	5.
	Legitimate.	4.	1.	5.
	Illegitimate.	-	-	-

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population. 22.9

Still Birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still births). 67.6

Comparative Table of Birth Rates.

	Area.	Eng. & Wales.
1934	18.3 ..	14.8
1935	15.8 ..	14.7
1936	17.7 ..	14.8
1937	17.5 ..	14.9
1938	22.9 ..	15.1

Deaths.

	M.	F.	Total.
No. of Deaths from all causes.	30.	32.	62.

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population: 9.003

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:
No. 29 Sepsis. Nil.
No. 30 other puerperal causes. Nil.

Death rate per 1,000 total births: Nil.

	M.	F.	Total.
Death rate of infants under 1 year:	1.	3.	4.

Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births. 28.9

Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births: 29.4

Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate live births: Nil.

	M.	F.	Total.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages):	5.	7.	12.
Deaths from Measles (all ages):		Nil.	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages):		Nil.	
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs.):		Nil.	

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or required comment upon; nor any specially noteworthy cause of sickness, invalidity, or other feature prejudicial to the health of the neighbourhood.

Comparative Table of Death Rates.	Area.	Eng. & Wales.
1934	10.9	11.3
1935	8.9	11.7
1936	9.3	12.1
1937	9.5	12.4
1938	9.003	11.6

Table of Causes of Death.	M.	F.	Total.
Diphtheria	2.	0.	2.
Influenza.	1.	0.	1.
Tuberculosis of Resp. Sys. ..	1.	1.	2.
Syphilis..	1.	0.	1.
Caner.	5.	7.	12.
Appendicitis..	0.	1.	1.
Pneumonia.	1.	2.	3.
Bronchitis	1.	0.	1.
Heart Disease..	6.	3.	9.
Other Circulatory Disease. ..	1.	2.	3.
Cerebral Hemmorrhage..	1.	4.	5.
Violence..	4.	1.	5.
Other defined diseases	0.	2.	2.
Senility..	3.	4..	7.
Premature Birth	1.	3.	4.
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ..	2.	1.	3.
Digestive Disturbance.	0.	1.	1.
	30.	32.	62.

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. Medical: W. Neville P. Williams, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Edin.), L.R.F.P.S. (Glas.), Medical Officer of Health (part-time).

Others: Henry Jones, A.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector etc., (full time). Appointed 1.8.34. S.H. Garratt, Architect and Surveyor; Slum Clearance and Housing Schemes, (temporary).

2. Laboratory Facilities: No change.

(b) Ambulance Facilities: No change.

(c) Nursing in the Home: No change.

(d) Treatment Centres and Clinics: No change.

(e) Hospitals - Public and Voluntary: No change.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (1) Water.

The supply of water from the Birkenhead source continues to be satisfactory in quality and quantity. The local supply is still undergoing the process of alteration in the method of purification. Filter beds are being renewed, softening tanks introduced, and chlorination tanks being installed. This alteration to to the Reservoir is not yet complete.

An analysis of the water during the year gave the following result.

COPY. HAROLD LOWE, M.Sc.,F.I.C. LABORATORY: ASSAY OFFICE, CHESTER.

20th January, 1939.

The Connah's Quay Urban District Council.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS.

(BACTERIOLOGICAL).

Sample of water received on 11/1/39.

Marked: Wash-hand basin tap, Custom House Lane Council Infants School, Connah's Quay.
Number of Organisms grown on Agar in 3 days @ 20°C. 900 per 1 c.c.
Number of Organisms grown on Agar in 48 hrs @ 37°C. 85 per 1 c.c.
B.Coli (Lactose + . Indol +) present in 1 c.c.
do. do. do. absent in 0.1 c.c.

The presence of B.Coli in 1 c.c. of the sample is not satisfactory and improvement in the quality of the water is desirable.

(Signed) Harold Lowe, M.Sc., F.I.C.

-0-

COPY. HAROLD LOWE, M.Sc.,F.I.C. LABORATORY: ASSAY OFFICE, CHESTER.

9th February, 1939.

The Connah's Quay Urban District Council.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS.

(BACTERIOLOGICAL).

Sample of water received on 1/2/39.

Marked: Wash-hand basin tap, Custom House Lane Infants School.
Number of Organisms grown on Agar in 3 days at 20°C. 200 per 1 c.c.
Number of Organisms grown on Agar in 48 hrs @ 37°C. 5 per 1 c.c.
B.Coli (Lactose + . Indol +) present in 100 c.c.
do. do. do. absent in 50 c.c.

This sample is satisfactory.

(Signed) Harold Lowe, M.Sc., F.I.C.

COPY. HAROLD LOWE, M.Sc.,F.I.C.

LABORATORY: ASSAY OFFICE, CHESTER.

10th March, 1939.

Connah's Quay Urban District Council.

CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS.

(BACTERIOLOGICAL).

Sample of water received on 3/3/39.
Marked: Wash-hand basin tap, Custom House Lane Infants School, Connah's Quay.
No. of Organisms grown on Agar in 3 days @ 20°C. 38 per 1 c.c.
No. of Organisms grown on Agar in 48 hrs @ 37°C. 11 per 1 c.c.
B.Coli (Lactose+. Indol+) present in 50 c.c.
do. do. do. absent in 40 c.c.

Absence of B.Coli in 50 c.c. is desirable, so that some improvement in the quality of this water is necessary.

(Signed) Harold Lowe, M.Sc., F.I.C.

-0-

No chemical examination was made.

Extension of mains was required to supply the following parts of the Area:

165 yards of 2" main laid to Wepre Drive for supply of Mill Farm and neighbouring houses.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage.

Complaints of drainage smells were singularly few during the year, and were adequately dealt with. My remarks of last year still hold regarding the possible requirements of this department in the near future, and are increasingly important in view of the probability of refugees from other towns being imported to the Area.

2. Rivers and Streams.

No action has been taken during the year with regard to checking pollution of rivers or streams in the Area.

3. (1) Closet Accommodation.

Two closets have been converted from dry to W.C. system during the year. The process is going on very slowly and should be expedited. Forty-seven (47) earth closets remain in districts not water supplied.

(2) Public Cleansing.

There has been no alteration in the system of cleaning during the year. Streets are kept reasonably clean and tidy, and no complaints have been received.

Complaints of ashpits and bins not having been emptied are few, and applications for removal of refuse receive attention as soon as possible.

No new streets have been added during the year without materially increasing the work or requiring any additional help.

(3) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

There is little to note of an unsatisfactory nature on the sanitary condition of the Area. Any complaints of insanitary conditions are immediately investigated and remedied, but occasions for this are extremely few.

The Sanitary Inspector's report is appended.

(4) Shops and Offices.

Shops are inspected as occasion demands. No action has been necessary during the year under the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and their sanitary conveniences.

(5) Camping Sites.

There are no camping sites in the Area and no licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

(6) Smoke Abatement.

After consulation with the Manager, some effort was made by the Organic Ammonia Co. to abate the smoke and smell nuisance emanating from their works. They state that they are doing all they can to mitigate this, but with very little effect. The smoke is perhaps lessened, but the smell is little, if any, improved. There has been no other action under this Act, although smoke nuisance continues from the Cable Street brickworks, at which there has been no improvement since the last complaint was made.

(7) Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no Swimming Baths (or Pools) in the Area. Open-air bathing takes place in the River during the warm periods. Beach-guards are appointed for the season, but as the water is definitely unsatisfactory for bathing in, and the river bed dangerous, it would be decidedly better better if the practice were discouraged. Alternatively, the provision of Swimming Baths has much to recommend itself.

(8) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

This is done were required by the Sanitary Inspector, Cimex blocks or "Solution B" spray being used. See Sanitary Inspector's Report for further information.

4. Schools.

The Schools have been duly visited and were discovered to be in good condition, sanitary conditions being satisfactory all round.

There was no occasion during the year when any infection was sufficiently severe to warrant closing of any of the Schools in the Area.

All contacts of infectious disease are segregated for the usual quarantine periods.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for 1938.

The total number of inspections made during the year was 400. It was necessary to serve one informal notice which was complied with; and many verbal requests were also complied with.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The only feature was the forcing up of one or two manhole covers during heavy storms. There has been no extension of sewers during the year.

Rivers and Streams.

The stream above the "New Inn" is now regularly cleaned out after any storm.

Closet Accommodation.

Two closets have been converted to the W.C. system, and only four more can be so converted. The remaining E.C.s could be transformed into chemical type closets, and I suggest that this change should be encouraged.

New drains provided.....	(Old Houses)	2.
do. do.	(New do.)	49.
New W.C. Pedestals.....		3.
New Cisterns.....		3.
Ashpits abolished.....		4.
Privies converted.....		2.
Dampness removed.....		4.
Ashbins provided.....		3.
Miscellaneous repairs.....		1.

Public Cleansing.

There is no change in the system of street cleaning. New streets added during the year are:

1. New portion of Richmond Road.
2. Marlow Avenue.
3. Henley Avenue.

The total mileage of roads cleaned by the Council is 11.7. Temporary workmen have now to be employed more frequently.

Refuse is collected similarly to last year's scheme. Only one shopkeeper makes use of the system inaugurated last year, the others now burn their paper refuse. Refuse is removed from 1,550 premises weekly.

Shops.

Thirteen shops were inspected during the year, but there was no necessity for any action to be taken.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

1. (a) No. of houses (Council) found infested..... 2.
   No. of houses (Council) disinfested. 2.
   (b) No. of houses (others) found infested..... 0.
   No. of houses (others) disinfested.. 0.
2. Method employed for freeing infested houses was Cimex fumigation in all cases.

3. Method employed for ensuring that belongings of tenants were free from vermin before removal to Council houses: None necessary.
4. Whether work was carried out by Local Authority or by Contractors: Carried out by Local Authority.
5. Houses are visited periodically afterwards to ensure that no further trouble ensues.

Schools.

The schools have been visited and inspected and are in good condition.

Meat and Other Foods.

The slaughter-houses have been inspected frequently during the year. One beast infected with tuberculosis was condemned and destroyed.

Smoke Abatement.

No action taken.

SECTION D.

Housing.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts): 65.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose: 65.

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925-1932: Nil.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose: Nil.

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation: Nil.

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation: Nil.

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal notice by the Local Authority or their Officers: 1.

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

(a) Proceedings under Sect. 9, 10 and 16 of Housing Act, 1936.

(1) No. of houses in resoect of which notices were served requiring repairs: Nil.

(2) No. of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of formal notices: Nil.

(a) By owners: Nil.

(b) By Local Authority in default: Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied: Nil.

(2) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices: Nil.

(a) By owners: Nil.

(b) By Local Authority in default: Nil.

(c) Proceedings under Sects. 11 and 13 of Housings Act 1936.

(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made: Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders: Nil.

(d) Proceedings under Sect. 12 of HousingAct 1936.

(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made: Nil.

(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit: Nil.

4. Housing Act 1936 9 Part IV - Overcrowding.

(a) (1) No. of dwelling houses overcrowded at and of year:	4.
(2) No. of families dwelling therein:	7.
(3) No. of persons dwelling therein:	29.
(b) No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year:	Nil.
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year:	1.
(2) No. of persons concerned in such cases:	8.
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding:	Nil.
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding:	Nil.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Farms and dairies in the Area have had the annual inspection, and there is nothing on which to report different from last year. Examination of milk for quality and bacterial content in under the direction of the County Council.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

Inspection of meat, shops, vehicles purveying meat, and slaughter-houses was made during the year. Meat is wholesome, shops are kept clean, vehicles are clean, and commodities are kept covered while in transit.

Slaughter-houses are kept clean and tidy, and have an abundant supply of water for cleansing purposes.

Other foodstuffs displayed for sale appear to be thoroughly fresh and appetising. No complaints of tainted or other food unfit for consumption have been received during the year. Shop inspection has disclosed nothing of which to complain.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
No. killed (if known).	-	-	-	-	-
Number inspected.	52.	-	-	37.	9.
All diseases except T.B.					
Whole carcases condemned.	0	-	-	0	-
Carcases part or organ of which condemned.	0	-	-	0	-
Percentage of these.	0	-	-	0	-
T.B. Only.					
Whole carcases condemned.	1	-	-	0	-
Carcases of which some part of organ condemned.	0	-	-	0	-
Percentage of these.	2	-	-	0	-

(c) Adulteration.

No action has been necessary under this heading during the year.

(d) Chemical and bacteriological examination of Food.

This is under the control of the County Council.

(e) Nutrition.

No action.

(f) Shellfish (Molluscan).
There are no shellfish beds in the Area.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

General.

The total number of infectious diseases is considerably lower than last year. Diphtheria was again in the ascendant, with 27 cases, with two deaths resulting. Pneumonia accounted for eighteen cases with three deaths, and scarlet fever for sixteen, with no deaths. Erysipelas (1 case) made the total for the year 62.

Influenzal ravages were not so prevalent during the year and accounted for one death.

Scarlet fever cases that occur in houses where satisfactory isolation can be obtained are kept at home. All others are sent to Hospital, and the authorities there co-operate in sending home as soon as possible uncomplicated cases.

Diphtheria Immunization.

This does not receive the general response that it ought to get. Despite the advertising, approximately only a dozen children were immunized during the year. The success of this effort might be enhanced if the whole thing was free to the recipients.

No use has been made of measles serum, either for Prophylaxis or attenuation.

Premises and contacts of infections are duly disinfected, or provided with the means of securing the result under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. School children contacts are segregated for the usual periods.

Bedding from deceased cases of tuberculosis and cancer is destroyed under the Sanitary Officer's direction, owners being suitably compensated.

Annual "Rat Week" is duly organised and advertised. The public are supplied with poison on request, but they do not appear to be unduly interested in the extermination of this pest, and consequently the results are not what they should be.

Notifiable Cases (other than T.B.) during 1938.

Diseases.	Total Cases.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	27.	26.	2.
Pneumonia.	18.	-	3.
Scarlet Fever.	16.	10.	-
Erysipelas.	1.	-	-
	62.	36.	5.

Analysis of Notified Cases according to Age.

Under 1 year	5.
Over 1 year	2.
Over 2 years	1.
Over 3 years	3.
Over 4 years	9.
Over 5 years	20.
Over 10 years	6.
Over 15 years	3.
Over 20 years	6.
Over 35 years	4.
Over 45 years	1.
Over 65 years	2.
	62.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from disease or injury to the eyes.

Tuberculosis.

No action has been necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade), or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936, (relating to the compulsory removal of persons suffering from Tuberculosis to hospital).

New Cases of Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Resp.		Non-resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
25	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and up.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS.	4	1	1	-	1	-	-	-

1. No deaths have occurred in non-notified cases of T.B. in the Area, and no difficulty is experienced in the notification of T.B. practitioners.
2. There is no evidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the Area.

The opportunity afforded in this report of expressing my appreciation of the valuable help and courtesy always extended to me by the Council and its officials is always a pleasure to record.

I am,
Yours obediently,

NEVILLE WILLIAMS.